

OKLAHOMA HOUSE FLOOR SCENE OF PITCHED BATTLE

Democrats and Republicans Mass in Fighting Array While Ink Bottles, Paper Weights and Fixtures Fly.

G. O. P. VISITOR HIT SENSELESS

Trouble Starts When Lie is Passed as Members Vote on "Grandfather Clause."

"COME ON!" IS THE CHALLENGE

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 18.—Tumultuous scenes occurred in the Oklahoma house of representatives late today, while the members were voting on a section of an election law designed to take the place of the famous "grandfather law," which was recently declared unconstitutional by the United States supreme court, because in effect it disenfranchised the negro population of the state.

Partisan feeling over the new measure finally culminated in an outbreak, precipitated by charges of corruption and the passing of the lie between members, during which ink bottles, paper weights and other fixtures of the members' desks were used as weapons, and a set battle seemed inevitable as democrats massed and advanced toward the republicans and socialists.

Way to Treat Visitor. Arthur H. Geisler, chairman of the republican state central committee, was knocked down and rendered unconscious by Representative Loris T. E. Bryant of Big Heart, Osage county.

The proposed law is the product of a democratic caucus. It had passed the senate and was up for final passage in the house late today, with republican and socialist members offering vigorous opposition. Geisler was on the floor through the courtesy of a visitor's permit issued him as republican state chairman.

Representative Paul Nesbitt, democrat of Pittsburgh, had voted in favor of the proposed law, and as he announced his vote Representative Sams, republican, taunted Nesbitt with being "unfair" to republicans. Nesbitt replied that he was not in a section where the republicans had overridden him with corrupt practices, and that he had no desire to be fair to republicans.

"They probably took you for the crook that you are," shouted Sams.

"Here Comes 'The Lie.'" "If you make that charge you are a liar," replied Nesbitt.

Sams arose in his seat, and shouted toward the democratic side of the house "Come on." In an instant every democrat and republican member of the house was on his feet. Ink bottles and paper weights were fired back and forth between the belligerents. The democratic members advanced through the aisles toward the republican members and speaker of the house A. C. McCrory left his chair and rushed out of the legislative hall. The democrats greatly outnumbered the republican combatants and after the harmless volley of books had been thrown, the melee died out of its own accord.

Representative Tom Hensley, democrat, went to the "side line" and was engaged in conversation with Geisler. When Hensley walked away Bryant stepped up to Geisler and said:

"What right have you to be talking to a representative on the floor of the house?"

Knocked Unconscious. Geisler replied: "Beg pardon, what is your name," whereupon Bryant hit Geisler in the face, according to witnesses, knocking him to the floor and rendering him unconscious for a few minutes.

The Weather

Forecast till 7 P. M. Saturday: For Omaha, Council Bluffs and Vicinity—Fair; not much change in temperature.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday:

Table with 2 columns: Hour, Temperature. Rows for 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m.

Comparative Local Records:

Table with 2 columns: Date, High, Low. Rows for 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, 1910, 1909, 1908, 1907, 1906, 1905, 1904, 1903, 1902, 1901.

Reports for Stations at 7 P. M.

Table with 3 columns: Station and State, Temp. High, Rain-fall. Rows for Cheyenne, Denver, Des Moines, Dodge, Grand, Lincoln, Omaha, Rapid City, St. Paul, Sioux Falls, Valentine.

SHIPS HAVE RIGHT TO ARM FOR DEFENSE

Lansing Notifies Envoys Abroad of Position Taken by the United States.

IS FIRST FORMAL STATEMENT

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—(Via Wireless to Sayville.)—The newspapers today publish a New York dispatch which says that the torpedoing of armed merchantmen under Germany's recent memorandum, which was to become effective February 29, has been postponed until April. The foreign office says that no such order has been given and that it is unable to explain the dispatch except on the conjecture that the American government is asking delay. No request for delay has yet been received here.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—All American diplomatic and consular officials abroad have been notified in a circular communication from the state department that the position of the United States is that merchant ships have a right to carry defense armament.

This move, which became known today, is the first formal announcement that the United States does not accept as legal the announced intention of Germany and Austria to sink armed merchantmen without warning after February 29, as coming within international law.

Sweden has informally advised the state department that in consequence of the announced intention of Germany and Austria to sink armed merchantmen without warning after February 29, it will notify its nationals not to travel on such ships.

It was explained at the legation of Sweden here that there would be no general warning but that all Swedish consuls and legations throughout the world had been instructed to warn their subjects whenever it was known that they contemplated taking passage on armed ships of the allies.

Hold Sheep Herder For Investigation in Robbery Connection

KEMMERER, Wyo., Feb. 18.—Jim Cutler, a sheep herder, was arrested and taken to Rock Springs today for investigation in connection with the hold-up of Union Pacific passenger train No. 18, on February 9. Officers declare he answers minutely the description of the holdup.

When arrested Cutler was wearing a watch which officers said, was taken from one of the passengers.

A mackinaw coat, sold by a Kemmerer store and found in an alley at Green River shortly after the robbery, was said by detectives to tally with the description of the robber's apparel. This, it was said, led to Cutler's apprehension. Authorities here stated that prior to the robbery Cutler was employed as a sheep herder, but since that time he has not returned to work.

W. J. McClement, special agent of the United Pacific, was said to have come to Denver to get Mrs. Rhoda Marks, the carrier there, to identify Cutler. Mrs. Marks' home is in La Grande, Ore.

Rev. Morton Culver Hartzell is Dead

PARADISE, Cal., Feb. 18.—Rev. Morton Culver Hartzell, widely known as a crusader against the old time trolley districts in Chicago, died here late last night. Mr. Hartzell lived in Paradise, where he was pastor of Centenary Methodist Episcopal church on the West Side, and the South Park Avenue church of the same denomination. He came here five years ago for his health and is survived by a widow and small son, Carl. His father, Bishop Joseph C. Hartzell, arrived from Chicago a short time before his death occurred. The body will be taken to Chicago.

Mr. Hartzell was 80 years old and died on his birthday anniversary.

Austrians Capture Town Near Durazzo

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—The capture of Kavaya, the eighth mile from Durazzo, capital of Albania, by Austro-Hungarian troops, assisted by Albanians, is announced in the official report of the Austro-Hungarian headquarters received here today. The report follows: "Austro-Hungarian troops, reinforced by Albanians have occupied Kavaya. The garrison there consisted of about 800 British gendarmes, who escaped capture by flight on board a ship."

Roosevelt Arrives At St. Thomas

ST THOMAS, D. W. I., Feb. 18.—Theodore Roosevelt arrived here yesterday on the steamship Guiana. He dined with the governor's secretary in the absence of the governor of St. Croix. The colonel declined to be interviewed on political affairs, saying he had come here for a rest. He will leave St. Thomas tomorrow.

YOUTH DIES OF INJURIES RECEIVED IN DUNAWAY

MITCHELL, S. D., Feb. 18.—(Special Telegram.)—Raiph Christopher, 15 years old, driver for the Rathbun Grocery company, was horribly mangled in a runaway that occurred shortly before noon today. He died while being taken to a hospital without regaining consciousness. He was dragged over 300 yards before the animals were stopped when they ran into a telephone guy wire.

SENATE RATIFIES NICARAGUA PACT AFTER LONG FIGHT

Convention Giving United States Naval Base and Option on Canal Route Approved by the Upper House.

VOTE FIFTY-FIVE TO

Five Democratic Record Against Proposed Treaty.

NORRIS OPPOSES ADOPTION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The senate late today, by a vote of 55 to 18, ratified the long pending and persistently opposed Nicaraguan treaty, whereby the United States would acquire a ninety-nine year option on the Nicaraguan canal route and a naval base in the Gulf of Fonseca for \$3,000,000.

Included in the ratification resolution was a provision declaring that the United States in obtaining the naval base does not intend to violate any existing rights in the Gulf of Fonseca of Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador, which had protested against the proposed acquisition.

Five democratic senators voted against the treaty. They were Chamberlain, Martine, Clarke of Arkansas, Thomas and Vandaman. Republican who voted against the ratification were Borah, Clapp, Cummins, Gronna, Jones, Kenyon, La Follette, McCumber, Nelson, Norris, Smith of Michigan, Smoot and Warren. Fifteen republican senators joined the administration forces in support of the treaty. They were Brandegee, Colt, Dillingham, Duffell, Gallinger, Harding, Lippitt, Lodge, McLean, Page, Poinsette, Sutherland, Wadsworth and Weeks.

Immediately after the senate had acted Senator Chamorro, the Nicaraguan minister, said he would at once communicate with his government and that he expected ratification of the convention by his government would soon follow.

Robbery of School's Strong Box Traced to Superintendent's Son

NORFOLK, Neb., Feb. 18.—(Special Telegram.)—Richard Crozier, 16-year-old high school boy and son of Superintendent M. E. Crozier, made a confession to the police today that he had taken keys from his father's desk, entered the high school building vault and stolen a box containing approximately \$94 of school funds.

He was paroled to the care of his father and the police stated that the next step would be up to the members of the school board or the county attorney.

Approximately \$90 of the amount taken was returned and the other \$4 will be made good.

The knowledge that his son had made a complete confession came as a thunderbolt to the superintendent, who is heartbroken over the situation.

Ice Gorge in Blue Is Cause of Flood In City of Beatrice

BEATRICE, Neb., Feb. 18.—(Special Telegram.)—The Blue river overflowed its banks today when the ice began to break up in the stream. The Union Pacific was unable to get trains south of here to Manhattan, Kan., because of the ice gorge and an overflow of the tracks between Beatrice and Holmesville. A snowplow was sent out this afternoon to clear the ice off the track.

Water four feet deep was running through the Union Pacific depot this evening. The company is trying to break up the ice gorges with dynamite.

CAPTAIN F. L. PERRY, FORMER IOWAN, IS DEAD

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 18.—Captain Fred L. Perry, coast artillery corps, United States army, is dead at the Presidio here today. Death followed a capital operation performed two days ago.

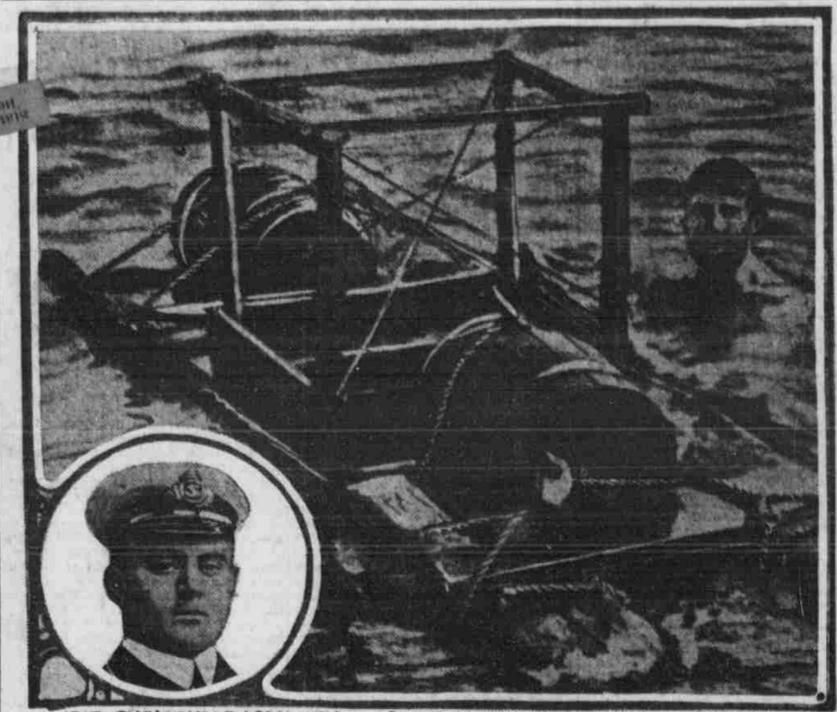
Captain Perry was born in Iowa in 1876. He served in the Spanish-American war as lieutenant in the First Louisiana volunteers and was commissioned in the regular service in 1901. His last duty was at the Panama-Pacific exposition, where he was assistant chief of the exposition guard.

Several Killed by Rock Plant Blast

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Feb. 18.—An explosion has occurred at the split rock plant of the Seneca-Solvay company, which manufactures picric acid. Early reports stated that four to six persons were killed and many injured.

Senator Robinson introduced letters to show that while purchase of motor trucks for the service was not provided by congress, it was planned to get them under an authorization for "accessories," and continued:

VICTORIA CROSS FOR E-II CAPTAIN—For sinking at least twenty Turkish and German ships in the Sea of Marmore the commander of the submarine E111, and the thirty members of the crew have been granted signal honors by the king. Nasmith receives the Victoria Cross and members of the crew are awarded distinguished service medals.



LIEUT. COMMANDER NASMITH. LIEUT. DOYLEY HUGHES ON RAFT. © GETTY IMAGES

SCANDAL ALLEGED IN AERIAL SERVICE

Senator Robinson Makes Sensational Charges Against Men in Charge.

DEMANDS AN INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Charges of a scandal in the army aviation service involving defective equipment, favoritism to certain officers and general inefficiency of the Aero corps were laid before the senate military committee today by senator Robinson of Arkansas in support of his resolution for a congressional investigation.

Fifteenth photographic copies of letters which he said had passed between Colonel Neber, head of the corps, and Captain Cowan, in charge of the San Diego aviation station, Senator Robinson told the committee in executive session that the documentary evidence proved that the officers recognized the inefficient condition of the aero service and that Reber had instructed Cowan to keep it secret.

Lieutenant Colonel Goodier, judge advocate general of the western division of the army, was recently tried by court-martial charged with having altered or added to charges against Cowan were that for two years he drew the 50 per cent extra pay of an aviator officer, when he was not an aviator. The case now is awaiting President Wilson's action. The court-martial at San Francisco attracted wide attention and threatened an investigation of the aviation service.

Senator Robinson appeared before the committee to urge the adoption of his resolution to provide for a congressional investigation of the aviation service.

"This resolution was introduced," Senator Robinson said, "only after consideration of evidence that the aviation section of the signal corps is hopelessly inefficient and that this fact is known by the officers charged with its control, and deliberately concealed by them from the War department and from congress."

Under date of April 16, 1914, the senator said Captain Cowan wrote Colonel Reber: "Frankly, I don't want to put down in black and white over my signature my opinion about the way the signal service has handled this work."

"When I think of all the mistakes that have been made while I have had charge of this end of the work it just makes me sick. . . . If I had known as much about this work six months ago as I know now I am convinced that I could have saved this whole unfortunate situation. . . . I don't know very much about how this work should be done."

Students Rushed Through. Colonel Reber wrote July 21, 1914, to Captain Cowan, Senator Robinson said, as follows:

"We have until September 15 to qualify these men and get them in without having them detailed as students. All you have to do is to sit tight and draw your pay."

Senator Robinson introduced letters to show that while purchase of motor trucks for the service was not provided by congress, it was planned to get them under an authorization for "accessories," and continued:

REAL ESTATE MAN BOUND AND ROBBED

J. L. Duff, South Sider, Victim of "Binding Bandit" in His Office.

LOSES WATCH AND SMALL SUM

A robber thought to be the one known as "the binding bandit" held J. L. Duff, prominent real estate man of the South Side, late yesterday afternoon at the business office of the latter at 2312 L street, South Side. The bold highwayman entered the office after two previous visits at 5:45 o'clock and asking to use the laboratory entered Duff into the rear room.

Here on pretense of attempting to find a card which he said he had dropped in his visits on the day before, he suddenly drew a revolver and ordered Duff to hold up his hands. Tying the real estate man's hands behind him he made his way into the front office and locking the door drew down the blind. He returned and after tying Duff's ankles together went through his pockets talking freely the while. The bandit obtained a gold watch and \$4 in money.

A search of the open safe and the office followed. Finding nothing, he returned to the rear room, remarking that he would call the police, opened the rear door and escaped.

Mr. Duff worked his way as best he could to the front room and drew up the blind with his teeth. A pedestrian was attracted, and seeing the predicament of the business man, called the police.

The man was described to be about 25 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighing about 160 pounds. He was perfectly cool while managing the situation, going about the search as though he were an experienced criminal, according to the testimony of Duff to the police later.

Roumania About Ready to Enter War On Side of Entente

LONDON, Feb. 18.—"Dispatches from Bucharest state that the capture of Erzerum by the Roumans is crystallizing the decision of Roumania to intervene on an 'early date,'" says the Rome correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company.

In Roumanian official circles in sympathy with the entente it is stated that in March there will be a concentration of Rouman troops in Bessarabia for the purpose of permitting Roumania to transfer troops to the Bulgarian frontier. This transfer already is in progress.

"In the meantime the allies are hastening the transportation to Saloniki of the Serbian, Albanian and Montenegrin armies, which with the French and British troops will make possible an offensive movement simultaneously with the intervention of Roumania."

Another Catherine Winters is Found

NEWPORT, Ky., Feb. 18.—Word was received today from Newcastle, Ind., that Dr. W. A. Winters was on his way to this city to look at a young girl who, officials of the Campbell County Humane society believe to be his long-lost daughter, Catherine.

The girl gives the name of Lucy Atkins and was taken from John Atkins, 50 years old, Atkins arrived here with his wife and family several weeks ago. He insists that the girl is his own daughter, but the Humane society officials say he gave unsatisfactory answers regarding the birth of the child.

ARMED WITH BOMB AGAINST CAPTORS

Crones Intimated He Was Ready for Anybody Who Tried to Take Him.

SERIOUS IN HIS THREATS

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Officials of a correspondence school have filed an application for their chemistry course as the same attached to the letter published in a New York paper, in which Crones confessed poisoning soup served at the banquet to Archbishop Mundelein here last week, it was announced today by Captain Hunt, chief of detectives. The captain believes Crones also wrote the second letter published today.

Crones was serious in his threats against the police, contained in the second letter, according to Hunt.

"I believe he is carrying an infernal machine and that he would sacrifice his own life to wipe out any policeman who may try to capture him," Captain Hunt said.

The detective chief is expecting a photographic copy of the first letter from Police Commissioner Woods of New York and today received official notice of the receipt of the second.

Extra Precautions at New York. NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—The fact that Jean Crones, the anarchistic chief accused of poisoning soup served at a dinner given by Catholic clergy to Archbishop Mundelein in Chicago, is supposed to be in this city caused the police today to take extraordinary precautions to safeguard the guests at a ball to be given in Madison Square Garden tonight by the Knights of Columbus. Governor Whitman, high city officials and many dignitaries of the Catholic church are expected to be present.

Detectives have been ordered to watch every section of the auditorium and another large detail will patrol the environment of the garden.

The police have been spurred to renewed activity by the definite establishment of the fact that two letters received by the New York Times and purporting to have been written by Crones were mailed in New York. The second letter, which was received by the Times last night and published this morning, conveyed a threat that a new outrage was planned in this city.

Salida Clew is Exploded. DENVER, Colo., Feb. 18.—A flat denial that anarchistic leaders had been holding secret meeting at Salida, Colo., planning a "reign of terror" throughout the United States, was made by federal officials here today. Authorities expressed the opinion that the Chicago report emanated from the receipt a month ago of a poorly spelled rambling letter from a man living in a small isolated district, who declared he "worked under the science of astrology."

The letter stated that the "American fleet, harbors and mining districts" were in danger and suggested that the matter be taken up with foreign diplomats. Investigation disclosed, say officials, that the writer had no connection with outside parties.

Mrs. Meyer Given Sixteen Years in State Penitentiary

WINTERSET, Ia., Feb. 18.—Sixteen years in the penitentiary was the sentence today given by Judge Applegate to Mrs. Ida Meyer, the 50-year-old woman who earlier in the week was convicted of complicity in the murder of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Ethel Meyer, last July.

LAW OF SEA TWO CENTURIES OLD, SAYS MR. LODGE

Senator Holds that Any Change of Policy Now Would Be Clear Violation of Neutrality.

MEANS STEP TOWARD WAR

Refusal to Clear Merchant Ship Armed for Defense Would Make U. S. Ally of Kaiser.

WILSON'S FIRST POSITION RIGHT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Senator Lodge, ranking minority member of the foreign relations committee, made a speech in the senate today, declaring that abandonment by the United States at this time of the principle that its ports were open to and its citizens free to travel upon merchantmen of belligerent nations armed solely for defensive purposes, would be an unequal act and a step toward war. He said it would make the United States the ally of the belligerent whose merchant marine had been swept from the seas.

As late as the president's note of May 13, 1915, signed by Mr. Bryan, Senator Lodge said, this government recognized that "American citizens were within their 'indisputed rights in taking their ships and in traveling wherever their legitimate business calls them upon the high seas.'"

Law Two Centuries Old.

"Such," he added, "has been the practice of all nations in regard to the armed merchantmen. It seems utterly incredible that this position should be in any way altered now or that our government should be ready to surrender the unquestioned rights of Americans to travel or ship goods on a belligerent merchantman subject to all the rules which have been established by the courts and by all international law for at least two centuries. The abandonment of those rights by any neutral government on the ground that the invention of submarines with the necessary limitations upon the powers of capture possessed by those boats is inconceivable. Such abandonment could only rest on the ground that the rights of neutrals, the rules that for centuries have been agreed upon by all nations for the protection of innocent lives upon vessels captured in war must be thrown aside and discarded in order that a new instrument of maritime destruction must not be impeded in its work of death and murder. Such a doctrine is revolting to every instinct of humanity, to every principle of law and justice."

Violation of Neutrality. "There is, however, another side to this matter which is of even graver importance. There can be no question that any act by a neutral, which alters conditions created by the war is an unequal act and places the neutral upon the side of one belligerent or the other."

"This is eminently true of any form of embargo, and there is no need that I should repeat the unanswerable argument on this point embodied by Mr. Lansing in his note of last August to the government of Austria-Hungary. The war, and the war alone has also created conditions under which any change at this time in the attitude, which we took officially at the outset of the war in regard to armed merchantmen would be an unequal act. The merchantmen of one belligerent have been swept from the seas. Therefore, if we should abandon all the principles on this subject that we have always sustained, if we should abandon the rules laid down by Mr. Lansing in his circular of September, 1914, and declare that our ports were closed to armed merchantmen, or that goods and passengers from the United States could not be placed on an uncommissioned merchantman armed solely for self defense, our action would affect only one belligerent; it would alter conditions created by the war, and would therefore be unequal. It would make us at once the ally of the belligerent whose merchant marine had been driven from the ocean. It would be a step toward war."

Direct Step Toward War. "I cannot believe that the administration thinks for a moment of altering the well defined position which it took at the outset of the European war, and I believe that it must stand as firmly on this question as it has on the question of the embargo. Should it act otherwise it would accept a humiliation and incur a danger of war from which even the boldest and most unscrupulous would shrink."

Senator Sterling of South Dakota spoke on his resolution to declare the senate's

(Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

The Day's War News

RUSSIAN WAR OFFICE has officially announced the capture of Erzerum from the Turks, but has furnished no details.

IN MAJOR FIELDS OF WAR, west and east, there has been no activity of an important nature, so far as official reports show.

MUCH SPECULATION regarding the probable further course of events in the campaign about Erzerum is being indulged in. One report says that Russian have pushed a force northwest from Erzerum, and that this force of troops has already reached Balbrat, seven or five miles away on the road to Trebizond.

REPORTS OF A MUTINY of Hindu troops in Egypt came today through German channels. A circumstantial account published in a Cologne newspaper declares that an entire regiment mutinied. Twelve British officers, including the commander of the regiment and a major, were killed, according to the account.